

Attachment 1

Purpose and Intent

[The following text represents the Purpose and Intent concept paper as edited pursuant to comments received at the August 24th committee meeting.]

1. Purpose and Intent:

- a. To establish a voluntary environmental performance system grounded in mutual trust that will honor and exceed existing and future statutory standards for health, safety and the environment and result in the continuous improvement of local, regional and State ambient environments, economics and quality of life.
- b. Provide clear incentives, such as flexibility, streamlining and assistance, which will provide real benefits to participating organizations resulting in improvement to the state's economy by making it more efficient and competitive.
- c. The system will permit the balancing of environmental and inherently interdependent economic and community needs over a reasonable period of time and with a baseline of existing regulations.
- d. Promote attention to unregulated environmental problems, opportunities for environmental restoration resource conservation, environmentally affective improvements and other opportunities by leveraging the resources of business and voluntary partners.
- e. The voluntary environmental performance system will include methods that will:
 - (1) Increase levels of trust, communication and accountability among agencies, regulated parties and the public.
 - (2) Reduce time and money spent by agencies, facilities and organizations on tasks that do not benefit the environment; perform the necessary more efficiently and eliminate the unnecessary.
 - (3) Report performance information and ambient environmental data to the public that is accurate, timely, credible, relevant and useable to interested parties.
 - (4) Allow for the measurement of the systems objectives and reporting of results.
 - (5) Create a learning system that affords protection to those who participate.
 - (6) Remove disincentives.
 - (7) Provide for sustained business success.
 - (8) Result in a comprehensive reduction in pollution.
 - (9) Promote technical transfer.
 - (10) Ensure low transaction costs.

[Additional work on this component should probably wait until further development of the remaining legislative concepts.]